News from Representative Henry Waxman



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April 29, 2014

Dear Friend,

I wanted to take a moment to share some of the things I've been working on over the last couple of weeks.

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Unemployment Insurance



A few weeks ago, after months of debate, the Senate passed a much needed bill that would extend unemployment insurance to millions of Americans. On April 9, I joined 132 of my colleagues in the House to urge Speaker Boehner to bring the Senate-passed bill to the House floor for a vote.

Since the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program expired on December 28, more than 2.3 million Americans, including more than half a million Californians, have lost their unemployment insurance. On average, every eight seconds the House delays a vote on this bill, another jobseeker is cut off from the program. For many American families, unemployment benefits are the difference between having a roof over their heads or sleeping on the street; having food to feed their kids or skipping dinner; seeing a doctor or living with chronic illness. These families cannot wait. You can count on me to continue to do all I can to

get unemployment insurance passed in the House and on the President's desk for signature.

Click <u>here</u> for the full letter sent to Speaker Boehner.

General Motors& the Motor Vehicle Safety Act



Rep. Waxman joins those affected by GM's faulty ignition switches at a press conference in front of the U.S. Capitol Building.

On February 7, General Motors (GM) officially began a recall of 2.6 million vehicles manufactured between the years 2003 and 2007 for having faulty ignition switches. This defect was linked to at least 31 crashes and 13 deaths.

On April 1, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee Oversight and Investigations held a hearing to question GM Chief Executive Officer Mary T. Barra and Acting Administrator of the National Highway Transportation David Friedman about evidence that GM knew about this safety defect for years before it acted. On the same day, I introduced H.R. 4364, the Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 2014, which would require greater transparency, accountability and safety.

For more information on the Subcommittee hearing and our continued investigation, click <u>here</u>. For more information about the Motor Vehicle Safety Act, click here.

Newly Released Climate Change Report& Bicameral Task Force Actions



Click here to watch the video summary of the latest IPCC report

At the end of last month, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released one of its most sobering reports. In the report, the IPCC warned that while climate change is already having sweeping effects around the world, the problem is likely to grow substantially worse unless greenhouse emissions are brought under control. A short video summarizing the findings of the report can be found here.

In our continued effort to draw attention to the current and future impacts on climate change, the Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change, which I co-chair with Senator Whitehouse, hosted a roundtable discussion in the Capitol with representatives from five major corporations who are committed to taking action. Each of the companies has joined the Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy (BICEP) Climate Declaration, a coalition of businesses aimed at helping legislatures address climate change.

Click <u>here</u> to watch our full discussion.

2014 Congressional High School Art Competition



Rep. Waxman and 1st place Winner Ihwa Cho from Palos Verdes High School pose with winning art entry, Through the Looking Glass.

This month I was delighted to host a reception for the 2014 Congressional High School Art Competition, which was established by Congress as a part of the Artistic Discovery Program.

This year proved to be a very close competition as my office received some truly remarkable artwork from eight different high schools in the 33rd Congressional district. Our distinguished panel of judges included Kim Kovacs, Executive Director, Federal Relations at UCLA, Peter DeMaria, member of the Manhattan Beach Cultural Arts Commission and Professor of Architecture at the CSULB School of Design, and Han Dai-Yu, Associate Professor of Studio Arts at LMU.

Congratulations to this year's winners:

1st place – Ihwa Choi, 11th grade at Palos Verdes High School 2nd place – Joseph Lee, 11th grade at West High School 3rd place – Sarah Doo, 11th grade at Rancho Del Mar High School Honorable Mention – Cathy Lee, 11th grade at South High School

8 Million Americans



#8Million Americans have signed up for health coverage

Lastly, I wanted to take a moment and highlight an important milestone. After many decades of struggle and the tireless efforts of so many, millions more Americans have finally gained the security of health insurance coverage. Eight million Americans have signed up for private health coverage through the marketplaces. They join three million young adults who have been able to remain on their parents' plans until age 26 and millions more who are obtaining new coverage for themselves and their families through Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California). While there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done to implement the Affordable Care Act and build on its progress, I am proud that the law has made healthcare a right, not a privilege, for all Americans.

Please continue to keep in touch by following me on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>. You may also visit my website at <u>www.waxman.house.gov</u> and the Energy and Commerce Committee website at <u>democrats.energycommerce.house.gov</u>.

Thank you,

Henry a Waxman

Henry A. Waxman

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